



Ruthy Vrieswijk bares her soul with “Soul Stirring Mood Swings”

On Tuesday May 10, the courtyard of the Instituto di Cultura in Oranjestad was host to the opening ceremonies of the first one-woman exposition of local artist and poet Ruthy “Lady Ruth” Vrieswijk, a well-known and beloved member of the community. The opening was well attended by other local artistes, and those that appreciate Ruthy’s long-standing involvement and devotion to all the arts: poetry, visual arts, music, and dance.

Ruthy ‘s show, titled “Soul Stirring Mood Swings” (Reisnan Inspirando E Alma) began with a tribute from the many people in the artistic and general community that have known and loved her through the years. Ruby Eckmeyer, representing the Ministry of Culture recalled her long-standing relationship with Ruthy since their childhood, and John Booi, Director of FAVI, (Foundation for the Visually Impaired) treated the gathering to a brief recital on the harmonica, something that is necessary to complete any occasion. He declared that even though “the lights are out in my eyes” he could still see the beauty of Ruthy’s work and soul. The presentation ended with a surprise for Ruthy, a beautiful dance conceptualized by Freddy Montoya and performed by Raisa Montilla, a talented member of the Teatro Experimental Contemporaneo Aruba.

Ruthy Vrieswijk has long been writing and publishing poetry in Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu. She has shown some of her work previously in a show with “Padu” Lampe, artist and co-composer of Aruba’s National Anthem, and studied art with Hubert “Lio” Booi, the founder of the Instituto di Cultura. Ruthy also took part in the Pallet Magazine Art Program of 2004 along with other noted Aruban artists Bustave Noell and Elvis Tromp. Here enthusiasm and devotion for the arts, the YMCA and Scouting Aruba has made her a well-known figure in Aruba, and her one-woman show was anticipated with great interest. Thirty five works of various techniques adorn the Chapel Exposition Hall of the Instituto di Cultura, which is located next to the San Francisco Church in Oranjestad. There is also a collection of framed photographs of Aruba by Ruthy and her poems are woven in through the exhibition, providing a window into her “Soul Stirring Mood Swings.” One alcove is of particular interest, it is a collection titled “Ruthy’s Wall,” portraits of the artist that have done over the years, since her childhood, by various other well known artists on the island and from abroad. A number of these are also with her adored husband, Johaan, and even that opening night, the deep, long-standing bond between them, and the loving support he provides Ruthy was quite evident.

“Soul Stirring Mood Swings” will be on exhibit daily until the 27 of May, in the morning hours from 8:00 AM until noon and in the afternoon from 4:00 until 8:00 P.M. For more information call 582-2185 or go to the website www.institutodicultura-aruba.com.